

JOURNAL  
OF THE  
**BRITISH SOCIETY OF  
DOWSERS**

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No. 1

SEPTEMBER, 1933

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CONTENTS

	PAGE
Editorial . . . . .	1
Notices . . . . .	2
The Cause of the Phenomena of Dowsing . . . . .	3
A Stream in Sand . . . . .	10
On Radiation . . . . .	13
Locating a Spring . . . . .	14
Some Hints for Beginners . . . . .	15
The Roman Villa at Bignor . . . . .	18
Review . . . . .	19

PUBLISHED BY  
**THE BRITISH SOCIETY OF DOWSERS**  
BACKWOODS, LINDFIELD, SUSSEX

*Price to Non-Members, 1/-*

# BRITISH SOCIETY OF DOWSERS

## COMMITTEE

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## OBJECTS OF THE SOCIETY

- (a) To encourage the study of all matters connected with the perception of radiation by the human organism with or without an instrument.
- (b) To spread information amongst members, by means of a journal, lectures and other means, about the use of dowsing for geophysical, medical and agricultural and other purposes and for tracing objects animate or inanimate.
- (c) To keep a register of dowsers for water, minerals, oil, and for other purposes.

## RULES OF THE SOCIETY

### I.—*Membership.*

The Society is open for all persons interested in radiation-perception.

The Committee has power to appoint honorary members.

### II.—*Subscription.*

The subscription is five shillings per annum, or 3 guineas for a life member.

### III.—*Management.*

The Society will be managed by a Committee consisting of a President, who will act as Chairman, and five members, one of whom will act as Treasurer and Secretary.

The President and members will be replaced as necessary by the Committee, appointments being confirmed at a General Meeting.

All questions regarding the publication of the journal, lectures, meetings, etc., will be settled by the Committee.

Decisions of the Committee will be arrived at by correspondence if necessary, the facts being recorded in the Minute Book.

Decisions will be decided by a majority vote, the Chairman having a casting vote.

The Committee has power to co-opt other members for special purposes.

### IV.—*Accounts.*

The financial year will be from July 1st to June 30th.

Accounts will be published annually within two months after the end of the financial year.

Accounts will be audited privately.

### V.—*General Meeting.*

A General Meeting will be held annually, and other meetings when considered necessary by the Committee.





JOURNAL OF THE  
BRITISH SOCIETY OF DOWSERS

No. I

September, 1933

EDITORIAL

IN this age of speed and hurry, abbreviation is counted a virtue, so let us say without apology that the B.S.D. came to life on May 4th, 1933.

The need for a point on which the ideas and theories of all those interested in this strange form of perception, which the French call Radiesthésie, can be focused has been recognized in several other European countries where Societies such as ours already exist.

The recorded practice of four centuries and almost daily examples of the useful application of the dowser's art suffice to convince all but the most obstinate sceptic of its reality and value. But many of those who are familiar with that aspect of dowsing known as water-divining are unaware of the other varied purposes to which the art can be applied and do not, perhaps, appreciate the far-reaching extent of its possibilities.

It seems that the dowser is one whose psycho-physiological constitution is such that he is able to perceive any abnormal or discordant element in his environment, and that, as an aid to perception, he usually provides himself with an instrument of one kind or another, be it a forked stick, a twisted wire, a straight wand, a metal spring or a pendant weight.

Hence it is that the expert dowser is able to detect the presence of any matter alien to its immediate surroundings below the surface of the ground and the existence of unhealthy tissue in animals and plants.

Further it appears that by the use of certain methods and devices—of which a few are common to all dowsers but most are individualistic—the expert can attain a high degree of accuracy in discerning the position, nature and extent of his objective.

But this is not the whole story.

A recognized phenomenon bearing some resemblance to that of scent, is the existence of an immaterial residuum which can be appreciated by the dowser after the object from which it originated has been removed.

Whilst adding a complication to the technique of dowsing, this phenomenon may partly explain the undoubted ability of certain dowsers to fix the direction of a dead or living animal, often from a considerable distance.

Readers will remember the startling series of articles in the papers a few weeks ago, telling how the Leicestershire dowser, John Clarke, by the aid of a well-known device discovered the positions of five dead bodies within the space of a few weeks. Other cases have been recorded such as that of Jacques Aymar in 1692, and it is probable that any very sensitive dowser could develop his faculties to this end. The value to the police of a dowser trained as a tracker need not be emphasized. The familiar knell, 'Missing from her home', would lose its dread significance, and the criminal who left a personal possession at the place of his crime would seal his own doom.

There is yet another aspect of dowsing in which the psychical element appears to be the dominating factor, namely, the ability to obtain over a map the reactions which the dowser would experience on the ground. The evidence in favour of the successful application in certain cases of this extraordinary and inexplicable faculty cannot be ignored. Perhaps it can best be described as a physical reaction due to subconscious perception in which the familiar movements of the dowsing instrument are reproduced more or less accurately.

Let us leave it there for the present.

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## NOTICES

SUBSCRIPTIONS and applications for membership should be sent to the Honorary Secretary and Treasurer.

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Communications for the Editor and inquiries should be addressed to Colonel A. H. Bell, Backwoods, Lindfield, Sussex.

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It is proposed to hold a few informal meetings during the next few months at which members can discuss their views and experiences and exchange information.

Dr. Hector Munro has kindly consented to receive members at 12 Park Crescent, London, W.1 (near Regent's Park Tube Station) from four to six on the following dates:

Tuesday, 3rd October, 1933

Thursday, 7th December, 1933

Thursday, 15th February, 1934.

It is requested that members who wish to attend should send a postcard to the Hon. Secretary not less than a week before the date of the meeting, stating that they propose to come.

A charge of 6d. will be made for tea. Any profit derived therefrom will be paid into the funds of the Society.

\* \* \* \* \*

Dowsers who take fees for their services are invited to furnish information on the following points so that the Hon. Secretary may be in a position to answer inquiries:—

- (a) Branch of dowsing practised: e.g. water, minerals, tracing animate and inanimate objects.
- (b) Scale of fees.
- (c) References.
- (d) Localities or geological formations in which the dowser has most experience.

\* \* \* \* \*

Amateur dowsers are invited to inform the Secretary whether they would like to be recommended to inquirers without first being referred to.

\* \* \* \* \*

Whalebone for divining rods can be obtained, cut to size, from Devine & Co. Ltd., St. Stephen's Road, Old Ford, London, E.3.

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## THE CAUSE OF THE PHENOMENA OF DOWSING

By DUDLEY D'AUVERGNE WRIGHT, F.R.C.S.

THE question whether the phenomena of dowsing are to be attributed to physical, physiological or psychic causes has been fought out on many an arena. The protagonists for each theory have stoutly defended their own standpoint, and the result has usually been, that, after the clash of arms, each combatant has been found standing unmoved.

The Society for Psychical Research devoted a special number of its journal<sup>1</sup> to the discussion of this subject, the cudgels being taken up first by Vicomte Henry de France, whose comprehensive views on the subject are fairly well known through his book, which our President, Colonel Bell, has translated : *The Modern Dowser* (Bell & Sons Ltd.) ; secondly by Carl Graf von Klinckowström, a firm adherent of the physico-physiological School, who soundly trounces the worthy Vicomte and his compatriots M. Mager, the Abbés Bouly and Ferran, and many another noted French dowser who dare to draw conclusions from laboratory experiments, or what he calls ' armchair investigations ', indulge in the use of the pendulum, or endeavour to diagnose disease or estimate the yield of subterranean springs by means of the detector ; all of which he considers likely to bring obloquy on the art of dowsing.

Finally, Mr. Theodore Besterman enters the lists, and stoutly upholds the theory of Sir William Barrett, who in his work *The Divining Rod*, compiled by Mr. Besterman after the decease of its author, maintained that dowsing is a purely psychical process.

The writer of the present article does not wish to enter into this controversy, his object being to point out certain facts which in great part explain the action of the divining rod ; but before dealing with this, he would like to make a few remarks on the general position.

In the first place, it would seem that those who take an unprejudiced view of this matter can hardly exclude the idea of some psychical action. This appears to take place both in the conscious, as well as in the so-called subconscious realm. On the other hand, advocates of a purely psychical theory seem to overlook the presence of a physical medium connecting the psychism of the dowser with the object sought for (water, oil, metal, etc.). It is just this medium, be it ' radiations ', vibrations in the ether, or electricity, and its action upon the nervous system of the dowser, which bring the operation into the physico-physiological domain.

Count von Klinckowström in his essay above mentioned says that the chief component of the process of dowsing is a physical stimulus of the nervous system of the dowser, and he quotes Dr. H. Haemel as saying that in the movements of the rod we are concerned with a system in labile tension represented by the hands and arms, separated by the dowsing rod, which can be easily brought out of equilibrium by any variations of the contractile state of the hand and arm musculature.

This is probably a correct explanation, and in this connection the following facts which appear to have been left out of account

by those explaining the action of the rod, are of great importance :

As is well known, the nervous system is divided into the cerebro-spinal, and the involuntary (sympathetic) systems. So far as our muscles are concerned the cerebro-spinal system supplies them with nerves which convey only *voluntary impulses*. This at once rules out the cerebro-spinal system so far as the action of dowsing is concerned, for directly movements of a voluntary nature come into play, dowsing, which is essentially an involuntary process, is impossible.\*

It is then only the involuntary nervous system, represented by the so-called sympathetic nerves, which can take a part in the act of dowsing, and it is in this connection that an important physiological point has been overlooked, viz., that every voluntary muscle of the body has a double nerve supply ; one from the cerebro-spinal system which conveys voluntary impulses, and another from the sympathetic nerves through which the tone of the muscle is regulated, and it is to this varying tone or tension of the muscle that we may attribute the movement of the rod.

There are other evidences that the sympathetic nervous system plays a large part in the phenomena associated with dowsing. For instance, it is no uncommon thing for those who are particularly sensitive to experience a sudden faintness and palpitation, or to show marked pallor of the face on passing into the zone of radiation from water, minerals, or other substances. This pallor is due to the contraction of the small blood vessels of the skin, which are under the control of the sympathetic nervous system.

Further phenomena can be adduced showing how sensitive the body is to the influence of certain substances at a distance. For instance, if a sensitive person be placed in a position facing the west, a bright light be made to shine into the eye so as to contract the pupil, and a phial containing a drug to which the person has previously been shown to be sensitive is now brought close up to the back of the neck without the knowledge of the subject experimented on, a brief but very discernible dilation of the pupil will occur, and at the same time a slight acceleration of the pulse will often take place.

Both these actions are brought about through the sympathetic nervous system by reflex action. It can hardly be disputed that these reactions are all physico-physiological, and can partly be explained on the assumption that certain parts of the nervous system are concerned in their production.

Mr. Besterman in his article above referred to, in supporting

\* The voluntary movements here referred to must be carefully distinguished from actions of the *will*, which subject is considered further on.

the purely psychical theory, says that he need mention only one argument against the physical theory; viz., 'the complete absence of evidence for the existence in the human body of any organ capable of detecting, discriminating between, and measuring various electrical, magnetic, and/or radio-active currents, emanations or properties, and then communicating the result to the neuro-muscular system'. This statement is altogether too sweeping. There is evidence of the presence of an apparatus by which such emanations can be received and the necessary communication with the neuro-muscular system maintained.

There are at present in parts of the brain, the spinal cord, and especially in the sympathetic ganglia, certain large nerve cells which have a peculiar structure in that they possess at one end large branching processes much resembling the roots of trees, and at the other end are prolonged into a nerve fibre which passes away into the spinal cord, or into the nerves of the body.

The branches of one cell approach closely to, but do not actually touch, similar branches of a neighbouring cell. Moreover they are motile and capable of being retracted or extended under certain conditions. For instance, in the case of the brain, when sleep comes on it has been proved that these processes retract from each other so that the gap between them is much increased.

We thus have cells which are known to be conductors of electric currents, whose processes are in juxtaposition to and lying in a bed of matter which is a very poor conductor of electricity. Such a combination is to all intents and purposes a condenser such as we have in our wireless sets, and it is not unreasonable to assume that the action in both cases is similar, viz., that of 'tuning in' to the different wave-lengths and frequencies through a variation of capacity.

Furthermore, in the nuclei of the cells of the body we have structures which are capable of 'inductance'. They are the so-called chromosomes, which are coiled, tubular threads having an outer coat made of a fat-like insulating substance, containing a fluid with mineral salts in solution forming a liquid of high electrical conductivity. Lakhovsky<sup>2</sup> asserts that these structures are electro-magnetic oscillators, and that since they vary in size and curvature they all differ in the length of wave to which they are capable of oscillating.

We thus have in the body two distinct contrivances which are capable of varying degrees of inductance and capacity, both of which are in direct relationship with the nervous system. The whole is linked up in what is called in physiological language,

a reflex arc ; which consists of a receiving apparatus—in this case the skin ; a centrally transmitting apparatus—the centripetally directed nerves from the skin ; a central receiving station—the large nerve cells which are capable of ‘ tuning in ’ to the various wave-lengths received ; from this again the impulse is transmitted through the sympathetic nerves to the muscle fibres of the arm and fingers which hold the divining rod, and through this impulse, variations in the tension of the muscle are produced, and a turning of the detector thereby brought about.

All the above activities take place in the lower and more primitive part of the nervous system and are of a subconscious nature, the brain itself taking no conscious part in the action. But it would seem that in certain cases it is not possible to exclude the higher faculties of the brain from a share in the transaction, and it is here that a psychic factor enters in.

It is generally conceded by expert water diviners that by an effort of concentration and will power, it is possible to tune the receptive system into—shall we say—the wave-length of any particular substance, be it gold, oil, water, etc.

In Sir Wm. Barrett's book, *The Divining Rod*<sup>3</sup>, the following will be found as the evidence given by the Rev. H. J. T. Tringham of Long Cross Vicarage, Chertsey, who is evidently a dowser of considerable sensitiveness ; ‘ Last night I was making the test (by dowsing) over a lot of coins—silver and copper, and the rod moved in a lively fashion, but I found . . . that it would only work if the thought of metal was in my mind. If I thought of water it would not work for metal, and vice versa. Well, that is weird enough, but it occurred to me that I might be deceiving myself as to the movement of the rod over the coins, more especially when I found that to get it to operate I had to think of the particular metal of which the coins were made ! So I devised a test. I made parcels of silver coins and parcels of copper coins, and “ jumbled ” them up together so that I had not the least idea which metal any one of them contained. Then I selected one at hazard, put it on the floor and tried the rod over it, thinking of silver. “ Nothing doing ”, as the boys say. Changed my thought to copper, and the rod moved. Copper it was ! I tried each packet in turn and the rod never made a mistake ! This is rather uncanny, but fascinating. I tried with pewter, and with an ordinary tin and got no result.’

Other instances of a similar nature could be quoted, and so it appears that man has a selective control over the actions of dowsing, and it is to that extent a psychological process ; but in all instances the greater part of the procedure must be ascribed to a physico-physiological action.

Continental dowsers are now generally recognizing that not only is their art closely allied to wireless on the one hand, but that the reactions of which the dowsing rod or detector gives evidence are essentially the same as the so-called electronic reactions of Abrams.

The latter have in the past been so decried by the many leaders of the medical profession in spite of the able advocacy of Sir James Barr that it will be some consolation and satisfaction to those who use them for medical purposes, to find support for their methods from workers in another field.

There can be little doubt that the reactions taking place in the human 'reagent' in Abrams method are brought about by the same physiological train of actions as is the case with the dowser.

A further extension with the dowsing rod has taken place in the domain of medicine of late. It has been found by several observers that by means of the use of 'samples' it is possible to detect the presence of morbid germs in the living bodies of man and animal.

The University of Paris has lately conferred the degree of Doctor of Veterinary Medicine on Dr. Abel Martin for a thesis on the use of the pendulum in the diagnosis of animal maladies.<sup>4</sup> In this thesis numerous illustrations of the diagnosis of disease in cattle, horses and sheep caused by microbes and food poisoning are given.

His methods were very severely put to the test by a jury of three veterinary experts, the object of the investigation being to discover by means of the pendulum the number of cows—out of a total of forty—that were affected with tuberculosis. Previous to the experiment the animals had been tested by the tuberculin reaction method, the result being unknown to Dr. Martin. Out of the total of forty the pendulum showed thirty-nine to have tubercle in some form. The tuberculin test gave 38, but there was reason to suspect that the thirty-ninth cow did not respond to the tuberculin test for certain reasons which we need not enter into. The tests were carried out under conditions most unfavourable to the doctor, and the result obtained was certainly highly creditable.

A still further use of the rod has been found in the selection of suitable foods and remedies in the treatment of disease. The subject is one which has only lately been brought forward, and there are not a large number of workers in these lines yet, and it would be best to leave the consideration of this subject to a later date.

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Since the above was written there has appeared in the Guy's Hospital Gazette for June 24th, 1933, a most important article by Dr. Lintott entitled 'Some Observations on So-called Water Divining'. The article is based upon a series of experiments undertaken in the Physiological department of Guy's Hospital, and out in the country. In the former case an apparatus was constructed so that water might run in a pipe beneath a platform, but without the knowledge and sight of the observer. What adds particular value to this investigation is that, as Dr. Lintott emphasises, all the experiments were carried out in a strong spirit of scepticism and under critical observation, and, where possible, control experiments were made.

It is only possible to summarise the results. They are briefly as follows : It was found that whereas no person tested could detect the presence of still water, yet there were people who possessed sensitivity to moving water to a varying degree. These persons could be classified in three groups :

1. Those completely insensitive.
2. Those in whom the sensitivity was present but not marked, and in whom it varied from time to time, being most evident when they were in a state of physical well-being.
3. Those in whom marked sensitivity was constantly present.

The twig and rods simply act as indicators and also as the means whereby the correct state of muscular tension is achieved. Three factors are thought to be concerned in the production of the response—a stimulus, the nature of which is unknown and which emanates from running water ; a receptive organ in the body, the sensitivity of which seems to be intimately connected with muscle tone ; and, lastly, the motor force which results in movement of the indicator used, and this, it appears, is a change of tone in the muscles of the hands and forearms.

It is interesting to note that its author comes to the same conclusions as expressed in this article as to the movement of the rod being due to alterations in the tension of the dowser's muscles. A further proof that increased tension of probably all the muscles of the body is caused by the action of running water is given by the experiment of making the dowser hold a rubber bulb in his mouth, and bite it lightly so as to secure the necessary tension. The bulb was connected by means of a tube with a tracing needle and recording drum so that any alterations in the

tension would be registered by the tracing needle. As soon as the dowser walked over the pipe containing the running water a tracing was obtained which showed an increase of tension in the jaw muscles at the exact point that the dowser passed over the water. It was also proved that blindfolding made no difference to the manifestation of the phenomena of dowsing, but a considerable proportion of errors occurred when the attention of the dowser was distracted whilst he was operating. This points to some action of the higher cerebral centres and may be related to the function of 'tuning in' by a conscious selective action of the dowser such as has been referred to in an earlier page.

The article itself is full of interesting points raised by the experiments performed, and should be read by all who are interested in the subject.

It is a matter of supreme importance to the dowsing fraternity that the subject has now been investigated in a truly scientific way by a recognized authority, and that further investigations are to be made; and it is a matter of the greatest satisfaction that the main propositions of dowsers have been so far confirmed by the investigations.

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*Bibliography.*

- <sup>1</sup> Journal of the Society for Psychical Research No. 479, Vol. xxvii, Nov. 1931.
  - <sup>2</sup> *La Formation Néoplastique et les déséquilibre oscillatoire cellulaire*: S. Doin, Paris.
  - <sup>3</sup> *The Divining Rod*, Sir William Barrett & Theodore Besterman: Methuen.
  - <sup>4</sup> Published as *Diagnostic Radiesthésique en Médecine-Vétérinaire*: Librairie Le François, Paris.
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## A STREAM IN SAND

by ELVAN

SOME years ago my friend X bought a country house in Devon. The main water supply came from a 25-ft. well in a wood, some 300 yds. up the hill behind the house, the water being siphoned down by a pipeline. This well usually ran dry in May; during the summer a spring in the rock by the house gave a good supply, but this entailed pumping.

Hoping to improve matters X summoned an old dowser, who pegged a spot some 10 yds. above the well, and a new one was dug 45 ft. deep, but no stream was struck. Owing to the limitations of siphon lift, the end of the pipe was put 27 ft. down, so when the water fell to 18 ft. the well went out of action. Thus there was no improvement, but the level of the water

table was clearly shown throughout the year, the summer level being some 5 ft. above the bottom.

Both wells were sunk in compact, dark red sand with occasional lumps of breccia (Permian), and were clearly dependent on the saturation caused by the autumn and winter rains.

In May 1932 I was asked to examine the ground. Several times when the forecasts of local dowsers have been disproved by the spade, I have been asked to see why. In every case I have found that radiations had been accurately pegged, but their meaning misread. They have generally been water radiations, but not the vertical ones over a stream.

Here was a case in point ; there had clearly been two dowsers. I found a comparatively shallow little stream flowing between the wells ; the 25-footer was exactly on the right inside parallel, and the 45-ft. on the left one.

A rough reading with the iron stick gave the approximate depth 18 ft. A careful one with the tape gave 17 ft. on one side, (slightly up hill) and 16 ft. on the other (slightly down). I said 17 ft., the mean proved correct.

The 'flow field' reading was five gallons a minute, small, but it adds up. Mager's colour test for quality gave the best reaction with the pale shade of violet I call V. 10,—excellent. Further tests showed light mineralization, and the pollution test gave a strong 'refusal'. An examination of the 'side bands' suggested fissure water, so I walked upstream with the rod to see.

The stream curved to the left, crossed a path, and some 70 yds. above the wells I hit the spring.

There was a long cross fissure, dry for some distance on each side ; at the spring the water rose up it to roughly 12 ft. below the surface, and then started downhill as an underground stream. The slope of the ground was steep, and the stream dropping gradually in relationship to it. By the house, some 350 yds. away and 200 ft. lower, it was over 40 ft. down. In the valley below there was a surface spring which may have been the same stream, but I did not trouble to track it out.

As the little stream was simply sliding down through this compact sand with nothing to ride on, I advised X to sink on the spring. We knew from the 45-ft. well that there was at least that depth of sand there, and it seemed probable that if we dug for it by the wells the disturbance might send it down. However, X was anxious for various reasons to try by the wells first, so I pegged slightly above the 45-footer. We agreed that 22 ft. would probably give enough storage space.

When the well sinker arrived he remonstrated. Here was a 45-ft. well with only 7 ft. of water in it. He was told to sink

another less than half its depth, and so close that there would only be some 16 ft. between their edges ; it did not ' seem right ' to him. X replied that the peg had been put in by a good dowser, and it was to be done ; so the men and tackle arrived.

Personally I was afraid we should send the stream down, so X's letter on his return home after Ascot week was comforting. He wrote that the sinkers had reached 17 ft. before his return, and had left the well for a fortnight—' to see what the water would do '. The stream was struck, could it be kept ?

The well was finished, stoned and capped ; but it was not piped, as the water in the old wells rose to winter level. The figures were :—

	New	45-ft.	25-ft.
Before sinking	not dug	7 ft.	dry
Mid-July	10 ft.	30 ft.	13 ft.

The explanation was clear enough. Here was some 120 cu. ft. of water in a porous container in the sand, soaking out all round and perpetually renewed by the little stream ; an effective substitute in its immediate vicinity for the natural saturation of the winter months.

In mid-July X wrote that they were taking at least 500 gallons a day for the house, and an unestimated amount for the garden, without lowering the wells in the least. Later the water settled down a little, during August I was sent a bulletin each week giving the daily heights in the three wells. The new was perfectly steady at 7 ft. 1. There was some variation with the other two, doubtless due to small changes in soakage through the sand.

Early in August, en route from finding water in Wiltshire, to experiments with minerals in Cornwall, I turned off to see it. X was delighted with the supply and quantity ; the well had been accurately sunk, the stream hit it centrally, the entry was at the original depth, but the main outflow was from the bottom.

This account was sent to X (May 1933). He and his gardener pointed out one mistake which has been corrected. The new has now been piped, the first water was drawn from it on 14th May. The heights were then :—New : 11 ft. 4. 45-ft. : 32 ft. 8. 25-ft. : 14 ft. 2. So probably there is still some soakage water in the old wells, and perhaps a little in the new. There were some very heavy rains at the end of April.

## ON RADIATION

By FRANCIS HYNDMAN, B.Sc.

THE practice and science of dowsing depends on the effect produced on the divining rod, or other instrument held in the operator's hand, by something proceeding from the substance sought for. This substance may be animal, vegetable or mineral, and, of the first two, alive or dead. How the action takes place is still not determined and from a study of the reported cases it may very well be that they are not all the result of the same kind of phenomena. There are, for instance, two clear divisions: one an electric current which traverses the body of the operator coming from and returning to earth. For the moment we are not concerned with this type. There is also the type which does not appear to depend on the conduction of a current, but rather the reception in the body of the operator of some kind of radiation emanating from, or connected with, the object investigated. It is with this type that we are now concerned.

In the new Physics of the last decade the whole conception of matter and of radiation has undergone an enormous development and while the order, divisions and names are preserved, in many cases the interpretation has entirely changed. However, it would be impossible in any short article to even indicate accurately these changes, and hence it is only possible to consider quite generally some of the best investigated types of radiation and their differences.

The most fully investigated is the enormous range known as 'electromagnetic radiation' which travels in space with the velocity of light, the maximum speed of the Universe. This series ranges from (1) the waves, thousands of miles in length, caused by sun spot disturbances; (2) all the series known as wireless; (3) the heat and infra-red rays; (4) light; (5) ultra-violet; (6) rays from radium; (7) X-rays of various kinds and perhaps cosmic rays. All these in their various degrees have the same character and can be reflected, refracted, polarized, and give interference and diffraction. The new Physics has, however, determined that they all are made up of an enormous number of units like pencils, in the case of light known as *protons*. These appear to be some of the ultimate units of the Universe.

The next series to be considered are the B rays of radium which consist of negatively charged *electrons* shot out with great velocity by the natural disintegration of the radium molecule. *All* substances can be made to give out electrons with greater or less velocity depending on the stimulus, and *all electrons are the same*. Until quite recently electrons were treated as discrete

units of energy with an electric charge and mass, but now it is known that they can be caused to interfere and to be polarized and hence have also the properties of a *wave*. Electrons are the second fundamental unit of the Universe. A third series is given by the  $\alpha$  rays of radium, which travel with less, but still a very great, velocity. They are really atoms of helium gas without two electrons and are hence positively charged, and consist of four ultimate units of matter or protons, the third fundamental units of the Universe, together with two electrons. Here again the rays have characters belonging to *waves* and can be polarized etc. In fact, the old distinctions have broken down and Newton was nearer to the true facts than he could have dreamed. Matter and waves are really only two aspects of the same things.

Where then does the action which causes dowsing belong? It is clearly connected with the person and personality of the operator, and hence belongs to some extent to physiology or, perhaps, psychology. Its physical side is not yet definitely determined and requires the most careful and accurate experimentation, which must be complicated by the fact that the receiver is partly human and it is difficult to fix a scale or a standard. However, this should be possible now that physicists have become philosophers, and philosophers may perhaps not disdain to add measurement to pure thought.

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## LOCATING A SPRING

By E. CHRISTIE

IN the clay district (Weald), I can trace the power over an underground stream as a sheet, or wall, for hundreds of yards often; wherever what is known as a 'springhead' occurs, I find a sheet (or wall) of power at right angles to the stream, forming with it a distinct cross of power. I call the power across, the 'crosspower', and this extends on each side of the stream to a distance which is roughly in inverse proportion to its depth, that is to say, the greater the distance the less the depth.

When the twig is held with the prongs open at the correct angle, or in tune with the wave-length of the power, a line of power runs between the right and left hands, and I call this line 'line D'; it is important to remember that the power comes at this line, and this should be held parallel with the line of force.

In the following, the cardinal points of the compass are mentioned simply to enable the reader to follow the procedure. Supposing I have to locate a site for a well in a field with a slight slope to the east.

(1) I walk across from south to north, holding the twig pointing straight ahead, keeping the point very slightly up; presently the twig will rise and turn over towards me. I then insert a peg. (2) Turning west—now holding the point of the twig towards the north, line D parallel with the line of power, I walk along, inserting a stake here and there. If the line runs for, say, 40 yards, I conclude it is the stream. (3) I then turn east, walking along south of the pegs, holding the twig pointing straight ahead, and presently the twig will rise and turn over. I try the twig once or twice to ascertain where the lines actually cross, and then insert a stake with a white paper in a slit at the top. I have located the first spring. (4) Turning south, away from the spring, holding the twig pointing west, I walk along south, and presently the power will weaken and end. (5) Turning and facing the spring I hold the twig pointing straight ahead, putting it forward and drawing it back at different heights, I thus make certain it is the end.

If the diviner then holds his twig with line D vertical, the twig should curl round the end of the sheet; if not then he should try a yard nearer to the spring.

(6) By measuring the distance to the springhead I can now arrive at the depth. Suppose the distance to the springhead be 48 ft. I know from long experience in this locality that the depth (less one foot) multiplied by the distance = 576. Therefore the depth (less one foot) =  $\frac{576}{\text{distance}}$ , or in this case  $\frac{576}{48}$ , which equals 12; the actual depth is therefore 13.

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## SOME HINTS FOR BEGINNERS

By CAPTAIN W. H. TRINDER

I HAVE often been asked by persons who have found that they possess, in a small degree, the power of dowsing, how they should proceed to develop that power, and if there are any definite rules to be followed.

The following suggestions are intended for the guidance of such beginners who wish to study the subject:

I recommend, as a start, the reading of *The Modern Dowser* by

Henry de France, translated by Col. A. H. Bell. This little book is simply written and shows by illustrations how the rod or pendulum should be held ; a most important piece of knowledge, as many seem to think that the rod has only to be held in the hand to work. It also gives certain exercises to be followed, which, if properly studied, will give the beginner a good grounding in the use of either implement.

It then goes on to give some methods of certain famous dowsers and explains the method of obtaining the "serial numbers" of substances. The comprehension of these basic facts is most necessary and will very materially assist the studies of any student. There are also suggestions as to the numerous ways in which this science can be applied which will give the beginner an idea of the scope of research which awaits him.

Having studied this book and mastered the first principles the beginner can then pass on to the more advanced work *Water Diviners and Their Methods* by H. Mager, also translated by Col. A. H. Bell. There is, in this book, a certain amount of the history of dowsing and it also gives explanations and illustrations of some of the earlier methods employed, but the chief interest, and one which will prove most useful to dowsers generally, is the explanation by M. Mager of his discovery of the use of colours in dowsing. This method is a most interesting development and the beginner will find, as he progresses, that it is capable of application in even more ways than M. Mager suggests.

Many of the more elaborate researches and diagrams in the book should be left to those experts who apply themselves to academic research ; the beginner should confine himself to the more simple and practical chapters in the book.

As to whether the rod or pendulum should be used is a matter for individual taste and ability. Some people prefer the rod, and indeed are unable to get the pendulum to work for them, and the converse obtains in other cases ; the beginner will soon find out which is his most satisfactory method and the one on which he can best depend.

Personally, I use both the rod and pendulum, that is to say I use the pendulum for finding the general direction of water, or of an object, then, having found the general direction, I locate the actual spot with the rod. When working on what is called laboratory work indoors such as experiments to find out the serial number of a subject—I use the pendulum entirely. It is, however, most important to concentrate on letting the pendulum have its way and as far as possible to avoid influencing it.

I now come to two important points which do not, I think,

appear in either book. Both points are based on the fact that the results, or rather the way in which results are obtained, are largely individual.

The first is that the rod and pendulum do not work in the same way for everyone, and their movements must be carefully noted by the student. With some the rod lifts over an object or water, with others it dips. Similarly the movements of the pendulum are individual.

These differences are probably due to the differences of polarity in different dowsers, but it is apt to discourage beginners when they find that the movements obtained by them are not in accordance with the book.

The second is with regard to the serial numbers for the identification of substances. That these are absolutely individual—although I have never seen this fact stated—is self-evident from the different serial numbers given by the various authorities for the same substances.

In my own case the serial number for silver is 7, and for several of my friends it is the same. However, in the case of two dowsers of my acquaintance it is 6.

The beginner may find that his numbers agree with those given in *The Modern Dowsing*; if they do, well and good, but if not it is an interesting study to find out for himself *his own* serial number for each fresh substance which he studies.

With such a vast field for investigation it is unwise—if not impossible—to dogmatise, and these hints are merely intended to help to start the beginner on his road to the study of what is really a neglected natural science. The only reason why any student of the subject may not become the equal of any other dowser is that some people are born more sensitive than others. Also if the power is, at first, very weak, remember that with practice it will become stronger and stronger, and having studied the books which I have recommended it remains for the student to develop his own powers, and this he can do with constant practice.

I have not suggested any particular method as being the correct one as I believe that it is better for the beginner to find out, from experience, which method suits him best, and that is, of course, the one to adopt.

In conclusion may I say that I believe that this branch of natural science is only in its infancy, and that the field of possibilities to which it can be applied is practically illimitable.

## THE ROMAN VILLA AT BIGNOR

By CAMPANA

FOR over a hundred years the Roman Villa at Bignor, a few yards west of Stane Street, the highway between London and Chichester (*Regnum*), has attracted the attention of all who are interested in the Roman occupation of this country. The foundations of many of the buildings have been exposed, and several fine mosaics are still preserved in their original position. In the atrium on the north side of the inner court the masonry of a fountain can still be seen, and the bath at the south east corner of the court is in a fair state of preservation. There is, however, no trace of the source from which the members of the Roman household obtained their supply of water.

With the object of solving this problem, three representatives of the B.S.D. visited the villa on Saturday, May 27th. One of them is a skilled amateur who has studied the methods of the well-known French dowser, Monsieur Henri Mager—methods which are based on the selective effect of colours.

Using a green and white pendulum—for it was raining—and working from the shelter of the buildings on the north side of what was once the inner court, the operator quickly obtained an intersection in the neighbourhood of the old tree stump, on the south slope of the rise to the north-east of the Villa. Proceeding to the spot he verified his observation by means of a whalebone divining rod (or detector) of the appropriate colour, green, which indicated a stream at a depth of about 14 ft. There were also indications of a flow of water to the immediate north of the atrium.

Proceeding then to the bath at the south-east corner of the court, the operator, using a detector of the colour suitable for lead, a mixture of red and grey, obtained clear indications of that metal at the north-west corner of the bath where a tree is now standing. Walking round the crops which are growing in the inner court, he again obtained indications of lead at a depth of 4 to 5 ft. on the north side.

No doubt in Roman times the spring flowed out at the surface, and the site of the Villa was selected on the slope below, where a head of water would be available. The Romans had no means of conducting water under pressure, as their only pipes were of earthenware or lead, so it was essential that the source of water should be close to the buildings, and preferably at a higher level.

## REVIEW

*Bulletin de l'Association des Amis de la Radiesthésie*, February, March, April, May, 1933.

*Identification of Radiations* by F. Lemoine, p. 55 :

Experiments which show that the swings of a pendulum appear to be affected by different substances in some relation to their atomic and molecular weights.

*Short Description of Pendulum of Great Sensibility used in Researches* by E. Ritois, p. 65 :

Made of an elastic spiral of aluminium wire and hung by a fine silver wire. Some people employ a spiral of bamboo fibre.

*Employment of the Pendulum for the Diagnosis of Ailments* by Dr. Cohan, p. 95 :

The pendulum oscillates from waves originating elsewhere only when interpreted by the operator holding it. Abrams in America and Boyd in England have constructed apparatus which works without the operator holding it and so eliminates errors. By comparing the radiations from the sick and from medicines he can say if these are the correct ones to effect an improvement.

*Deep Waters* by Lt.-Colonel L. Fr. Moreau, pp. 63, 109, 152 :

Consideration of methods to determine the course of these. A long description of the determination by several observers of the source of the water which rises as a river at the famous Fountain of Vaucluse. A discussion of the origin of certain fresh-water streams from water derived from the sea.

*The Reading of Maps* by L. Turenne, pp. 58, 148. (The conclusion of a long article.)

A series of experiments on the waves emitted by sulphur and copper and the possibility of proving their existence by markings on paper in their path under specific conditions. The effects appear to cease if chloroform (even when very dilute) is present.

*The Method of Holding the Rods* by L. Turenne, p. 104 :

The rod should be supported between the base of the thumb and the outside of the little finger towards its base. This is the best position for learners. Some have held the 'V' vertically above the head. This is good, but very tiring and unnecessary.

*Account of Conferences at Lille on 8th March* by L. Turenne, p. 113 : at Metz on 17th February, and in Brittany on 15th, 16th and 17th March by Abbé Mermet.

*Interview with M. l'Abbé Bouly*, p. 144 :

We are surrounded by mysterious waves and forces, some of which we can perceive in one way or another. M. l'Abbé invented the word 'Radiesthésie', a Latin-Greek hybrid. Various other names have been suggested for this branch of science, but were not satisfactory. The Association of which M. l'Abbé is a former President, and over which M. Armand Viré now presides, has over a thousand members. The rays which principally concern us are those which affect a divining rod, made of various materials. This appears to act somewhat like a needle of a galvanometer. To get the best results a sample of the like character to what is sought is necessary; the effect appears then to be one of resonance. A sample of the hair of a soldier killed at Verdun enabled the operator to find his body. He uses the principle that *all* bodies emit rays to the sun; hence, if the operator with his chosen sample places himself so as to intercept these, he gets his result.

*Prospecting in Aeroplanes* by André Auger, p. 158 :

The rod is depressed to an angle of  $45^{\circ}$  in passing over rivers but, owing to time taken at minimum speed (say about 100 ft. per second) the effect is short. Tests were not made over 3,000 ft. At the junction of the Ain and Rhone the rod *rises* instead of falling; the reason is unknown.

*Waves of the Pendulum and Atomic Waves* by L. Turenne, p. 187 :

The Atomic wave is arrived at by the formula  $L = \frac{N}{92} \times 1.55$  m. N is the position in the Mendeleef table and 1.55 is the length of the radium wave. As some of the elements are difficult to obtain, the author will furnish a sample of any of the 92 if asked. A table follows with wave-length of all elements. The human wave has  $L = 8$  m. This is the same for hydrogen, helium, carbon, phosphorus, sulphur.

*The Human Fluid* by M. Givelet, p. 192 :

This can enter into everything that is carried. Animals also emit radioactivity, that of insects being several times that of uranium; vegetables, also. Reiter and Gabor place these rays in the ultra-violet.

*After the Congress at Paris* by L. Delattre, Secretary-General, p. 199 :

A general summary of the result of this, to which 150 members came from many countries.

FRANCIS HYNDMAN.





## BOOKS ON DOWSING

*The Divining Rod*, by Sir William Barrett and Theodore Besterman: Methuen, 18/-.

*Springs of Water and how to discover them by the Divining Rod*, by B. Tompkins: Hurst and Blackett, 5/-.

*Water Diviners and their Methods*, by H. Mager (translation): Bell, 16/-.

*The Modern Dowser*, by Le Vicomte Henry de France (translation): Bell, 3/6.

*The Mystery of the Divining Rod Solved*, in two parts, by Ernest Christie, obtainable from the author: Pollingfold, Ockley, Dorking. Post free the two 1/8.

*The Art of Water Finding*, by M. E. Pogson: obtainable from the Hon. Sec. B.S.D., post free 1/8.

*Dowsing*, by Thomas Fiddick: obtainable from the author, The Cross, Camborne, Cornwall, -/6.

*Les Sourciers et leurs Procédés*, by H. Mager.

*Traité complet des secrets de la Baguette et de la Pendule des Sourciers*, by Frère Padey, 65 fr.

*Le Sourcier Moderne*, by Henry de France, 10 fr.

*Comment j'opère*, by Abbé Mermet, 20 fr.

*La Radiesthésie* (explaining Abbé Bouly's method), by M. A. Capron, 15 fr.

*Tu Seras Sourcier*, by Emile Christophe, 20 fr.

*Investigacion de aguas subterraneas*, by Bartolome Darder Pericas.

*Handbuch der Wünschelrute*, by Carl Graf von Klinckowstroem and Rudolf Freiherr von Maltzahn.

*Die Wünschelrute*, by Hans Falkinger.